

Town of Hudson
Benson Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2010

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair Harry Schibanoff at 7:09 p.m. on February 4, 2010 in the Community Development Meeting Room at the Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Attendance:

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper, Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh, J. Barnes, Martha Lee, R. Empey, C Gagnon, Clerk P. Nichols
Absent: K. Dickinson

3. Public Input

None

4. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

➤ **Buildings**

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper has called the first meeting of the Buildings Sub Committee for February 16, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the Community Development Room at the Town Hall. He stated that when the committee progressed he would ask for a new Chair of that Committee.

➤ **Trails/Land Conservation**

D. Empey announced that the deer stand on the property was removed (by owner?). Trail's meeting was held the end of January and final list of trail names were decided on. Signs were designed and D. Empey has someone who would be willing to make them. Old fencing removal is in progress and the post will be removed when ground thaws.

➤ **Grounds/Landscaping/Clean-up**

D. Empey had nothing to report at this time. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh inquired if any work had been done on opening up sections of the outer fencing. Unsure if this had been allowed by the Board of Selectmen D. Empey had not done anything on this. Discussion followed.

➤ **Outreach**

No report from Outreach at this time. P. Nichols said that the committee should be divided into special groups (i.e. Publicity, Fund Raising, Friends of Benson, 501C3) due to the work involved. Chair H. Schibanoff stated that should be something for the Sub Committee to discuss at their next meeting.

➤ **Volunteers**

Gagnon gave the committee a hand-out of the latest volunteers that were interested in being on a sub committee. She is working on a data base with all volunteers that would be available to all Committee members. A problem with incorrect email addresses is occurring. C. Gagnon will try to call as many as she can to update this listing.

➤ **Dog Park**

D. Briand reported that the 501C3 was being worked on at this time. He would not take donations until final approval of the D.O.T. and the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper discussed his views on the 501C3 and a possible Friends of the Hudson Dog Park. He suggested that D.Briand go before the Board of Selectmen with his plans. Discussion followed.

5. Proposed Rules and Regulations

J. Barnes gave a hand-out of the proposed rules. S. Jasper asked if times of Operation of the park could be discussed. After much discussion the Committee agreed on a Dawn to Dusk operation. The rules were discussed in-depth and Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh gave a hand-out to the Committee on Geocaching. This was discussed at length. C. Gagnon said she would take responsibility for setting up the first Geocaching and would monitor this from time to time. J. Barnes will draw up another list of rules for the Committee to look over at the next meeting. Jasper stated that this would go before the Board of Selectmen and that an Ordinance would have to be issues so that the Police could enforce the rules. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh gave a hand-out with information on group permits to be discussed at next meeting.

6. Plan for Opening

Chair H. Schibanoff and Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh reviewed the opening data and updated this version. Copies of this were handed out to all Committee members. A firm opening date was discussed and put on hold for the moment. A discussion on tasks to open the park followed and many ideas were put on the table. It was decided to hold another sub committee to review the new data and make amendments as soon as possible. It was agreed to hold a meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2010. P. Nichols will call to reserve a meeting room at Town Hall. This meeting will be posted but not televised.

7. Ticket Booth Repairs

No information at this time

8. Coordination with Recreation Department

Nothing has been done since the December Meeting. A suggestion to see if the Recreation Committee would be willing to meet with us to see if it would be feasible for them to build a children's area in the park was put on the table. Chair H. Schibanoff accepted the task of contacting them to find out if they would be agreeable to this.

9. BOS Decisions

S. Rumbaugh asked about the signage for no hunting, etc. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he did not know if they were posted. No one has seen them. Chair H. Schibanoff said he spoke to the Town Manager about a Liaison for the Committee and was told everyone was too busy. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper put it bluntly by saying that when it comes to Benson Park everyone backs off for some reason. No one wants to be associated with the Park at this time. They fear that it is a deterrent to their career. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked what the Committee could do to ease that situation if anything. Selectman S. Jasper said to have the meeting on the 11th then go before the Board of Selectmen with what the Committee can deliver and the rest is up to the Board of Selectmen. D. Empey asked what the status was on the extension for the Grant for the Train Station. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper will look into this. Discussion followed on how the RFP, etc would be handled. No answer to this problem at the moment. Chair H. Schibanoff volunteered to go before the Board of Selectmen after the meeting on the 11th. Alternate's to the Benson Committee was discussed and have been posted on HCTV and the Town web site.

10. New Business

➤ Proposed Trails/Signs

D. Empey proposed accepting the Trails that are shown on the map that was given to Committee Members. Trails are shown in color. Trail names were chosen at the January sub committee meeting.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to accept trails and names.

P. Nichols seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

D.Empey requested a \$250 fund to purchase pressure treated posts for signs, paint, etc.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to have the Board approve the request and that Chair H. Schibanoff go to the Town Administrator for a purchase order.

J. Barnes seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

➤ Public Suggestion Received

Chair H. Schibanoff received an email from a member of the Community regarding utilizing the students of Alvirne High School to help with the park. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper thought it would be a good idea to contact someone at the school to find out what could be done.

➤ Possible Donation

Someone on the Web wanted to donate a sign to the park but all donations must go through the BOS. When this person responds to Chair H. Schibanoff reply he will direct them to the BOS.

➤ Winter Activities

Discussed and decided not to try to plan anything this winter. Park will be open all next winter.

➤ Administrative Issues

Chair H. Schibanoff mentioned it was time to ask for a pass for being on the property. Most passes are only good through the end of January. D. Empey requested release forms in the hopes that anyone new comes into the park to work can be allowed to volunteer. C Gagnon wants to update this form to cover volunteers for a year. This means less paperwork and ease for volunteers.

P. Nichols will not be at next meeting. Martha Lee will be clerk for that meeting.

All Agenda's and minutes are up to date on the Town Web Site.

Discussion on sub committee meetings with a quorum. Must be posted but not required to be televised.

11. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh mentioned having meetings twice a month because of the work that needs to be done for a possible spring opening. She also asked about selling the shirts and hats whenever possible even if the Park does not benefit from this. It would mean more publicity. Selectman Liaison suggested selling them in March during voting and possibly having a booth set up for Benson Park.

C. Gagnon made a motion that only volunteers that wanted to become Chair of any sub committee come before this Committee for approval.

Selectman S. Jasper seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries

J. Barnes read the rules that the State has on work proposals in the Historic District. There are some time lines written in the Deed pertaining to this. There is information in the Deed for Town Conservation areas and must be approved by the NH D.O.T. There is no time line for approval or disapproval.

12. Adjournment

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to adjourn

M. Lee seconded the motion

All in favor-Motion Carries